



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSH ZEPNICK
WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

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FCC Mail Room

August 29, 2011

ORIGINAL

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or transfer control of licenses and authorizations; (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65).

Dear Commissioners:

Knowing that you are seeking public comments on the merits of the above matter, I wanted to provide my position and views on it.

The national economic environment, I believe, plays a deciding factor in how one regards this merger. If it is true, as more and more economists believe, that the nation is in a structural, rather than cyclical, downturn, then it is vital that we do everything possible to adjust to such a situation.

We know, for example, that the nation long ago moved away from a manufacturing-based economy as other nations supplanted ours in the cost of labor. In such an occurrence, we must then seek -- through technology and entrepreneurship -- new value-added industries and output that other nations cannot easily replicate.

In such a quest for new "value" in our economy, it is incumbent on public officials like us to encourage (or at least not stand in the way of) actions in the private sector that can help mitigate structural changes.

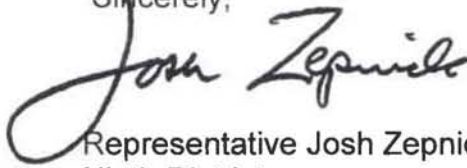
Mobile broadband networks are one of the keys to America's new economy -- which will increasingly derive from the insights and ideas that entrepreneurs and existing companies gain from information that is easily transported, processed and packaged in ways that no one today can predict.

However, today's mobile networks are still not up to the task. More deployment and upgrades are necessary – a capital-intensive, risky bet at best without a strong financial and operational base.

That is why I support the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA. The traditional questions of market share and competitive fairness still need to be asked; however, a bigger issue is at hand: Does the nation have the infrastructure it needs to lead the world in an information economy?

I urge you to consider this. I think the answer to that question will lead to an approval of this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Zepnick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Zepnick" clearly legible.

Representative Josh Zepnick

Ninth District

Ranking Member, Assembly Committee on Energy & Utilities

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell